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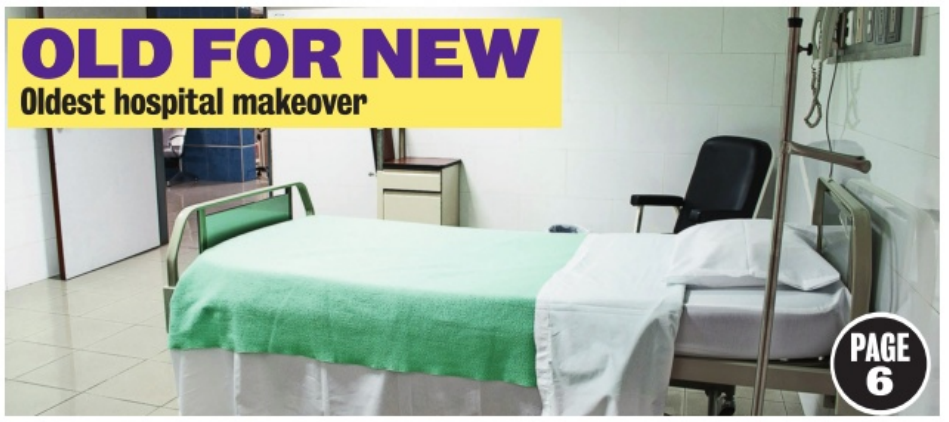
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 19 | Humidity 49% Partly Cloudy Sensex 71,060 | Nifty 21,453 | Gold 62,216 | Silver 72,003 | Dollar 83.08 | Euro 90.64 | GBP 105.98



5-acre pristine waterbody completely stripped of green cover in the name of rejuvenation, locals allege

SOUP BOWL LAKE REVIVAL

Lingadheeranahalli Lake in RR Nagar under revival by BBMP

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The lake rejuvenation process undertaken by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is under the scanner yet again. This time the case in point is the revival of Lingadheeranahalli Lake in RR Nagar.

Locals alleged the 5-acre pristine waterbody has been completely stripped of green cover in the name of rejuvenation.

"It was a squeaky clean waterbody till it started receiving untreated sewage a couple of years ago. The area around the lake was completely covered in vegetation, including many trees. After the issue of untreated sewage was raised, BBMP began the revival work in October last year. However, we recently noticed that the lake has become bald. There is only one tree standing in the area and everything else has been cleared," said Uma Vaijnath, a resident of the area and bird enthusiast.

Locals and bird watchers who visited the lake recently highlighted that the original shallow structure has been changed to a deep soup bowl, which might lead to ecological consequences and impact the ecosystem.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"The shallow zone of the waterbody has already been dug and made deeper

— Uma Vaijnath, resident

How much waste does the city generate?

Survey to re-estimate waste generated by households, commercial entities, bulk generators

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After six years, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is planning to conduct a fresh survey to re-estimate the waste generated by households, commercial establishments and bulk waste generators.

In the last survey conducted by the BBMP, it was estimated that there are nearly 27 lakh households within civic body limits. However, the number of households has multiplied — the last survey did not take into account the number of commercial establishments.

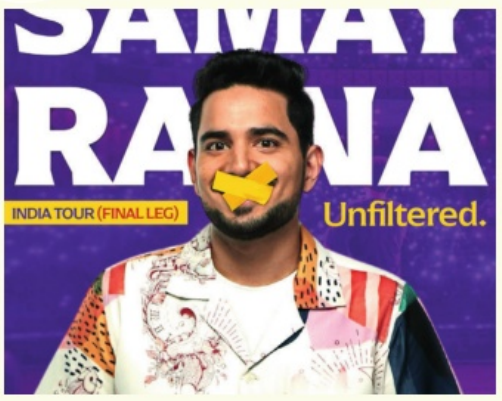
In 2022, the BBMP surveyed bulk waste generators — houses generating more than 100 kg of waste.

PAGE 4: INTEGRATED COMMAND CENTRE FOR WASTE ACTIVITIES

The Palike now wants to draw a fresh estimate of the number of households, commercial establishments and bulk waste generators in the city and plan its operations efficiently. The current operations including deployment numbers of the auto tippers are estimated as per the last survey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

2 THINGS TO DO



01 Comedic era

Don't miss the spectacular grand finale of Samay Raina's Unfiltered India Tour. The show promises a performance that is not just tight but an absolute comedy masterpiece. Raina will be retiring this material after this tour, making it your absolute last chance to witness the magic live. **Where: Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Silver Oak Plantation, 25, Mudalappa St, Anjanadri Layout, Konanakunte When: January 26; 4:30 pm and 7 pm**

02 Play it loud

Feel the vibrancy as Magique Koramangala presents Bollywood Mayhem Neon Theme Edition, featuring the sensational DJ Afterall. The renowned DJ is known for delivering unforgettable musical experiences and playing various genres such as hip-hop, house, EDM, and electronica. **Where: Magique Koramangala When: Saturday, January 27; 8 pm onwards**

Discover a realm of blissful reading

BU is set to introduce unique concept of 'hanging library' within tranquil surroundings of Jnana Bharati campus; this idea establishes distinctive reading space for students

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In an era where traditional reading habits are witnessing a decline and physical libraries are facing closures, Bangalore University (BU) is pioneering an innovative concept to revitalise the reading culture. The university is in the process of conceptualising a unique 'hanging library', set amidst the serene Jnana Bharati campus, aimed at promoting open-space reading for students and encouraging a love for books.

The Dr BR Ambedkar Central Library, located within the Jnana Bharati campus of BU, is currently undergoing a significant upgrade, and the estimated cost for this enhancement is Rs 1 crore. The focal point of this creative initiative involves utilising the sprawling branches of a banyan tree as swings, creating a distinctive reading space around the tree, and embracing the concept of open reading. Simultaneously, plans are underway to embrace the digitisation of books, aligning the university with the evolving trends in the realm of education.

"BU is presently championing the open learning concept, fostering an environment that encourages students to engage with green reading spaces. The university, sprawling across an extensive 1,210 acres, has allocated 10 acres specifically for the library. Within this designated area, a Miyawaki forest has been cultivated, comprising 28,000 trees, as part of the university's overarching goal to promote reading amidst greenery," said an official.

This innovative approach not only infuses creativity into the learning environment but also provides serene setting

The library at BU has an extensive collection of over 4 lakh books, and to enhance accessibility, an online catalogue is in the works. The university is also gearing up to introduce e-learning concepts, aligning with the digital transformation in the educational landscape. Additionally, the library serves as a repository for old question papers, providing a valuable resource for students, they added.

The hanging library concept stems from the unique setting where the banyan tree's branches create an opportunity for a distinctive reading space. This innovative approach not only infuses creativity into the learning environment but also provides an aesthetically pleasing and serene setting for students to immerse themselves in the world of books.

"BU is not only focusing on academic initiatives but is also proactively addressing the mental health of its students. In a bid to destress students, the university is exploring avenues such as a dedicated music zone and sports zone. Plans are also underway to establish a chase game concept sports facility, contributing to the overall well-being of the student community," explained the official.

> **"BU is presently championing the open learning concept, fostering an environment for students to engage with green reading spaces** –an official

Chief Librarian of BU, BR Radhakrishna, said, "We have a huge library at the JB campus. There are four lakh plus books, and we have a wide range of readers. Now, we are planning to take this to the next level. The university has allocated a grant of Rs 1 crore. Using these grants, we want to promote swings beneath the banyan tree and encourage open reading."

Skill learning centre

Akash Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre in Devanahalli officially launched the Akash Centre for Advanced Simulation, a cutting-edge skill learning centre equipped with state-of-the-art mannequins and advanced technology. The management and faculty expressed their joy at inaugurating the simulation centre, especially on the same day as the inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, creating a special sentiment. Dr MK Ramesh, the Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The primary goal of the management's vision for the simulation centre is to bridge the gap between theory and practical application. It aims to provide medical students with essential basic skills for their later clinical activities through the use of models, phantoms, and cutting-edge technology. — BMB

Girl power to take centre stage at Rural Olympics

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The Panchayat Raj Commissioner has directed Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners of Public Instruction and other departments to organise Rural Olympics and cultural programmes for the benefit of girl students from January 24 to February 15 on the occasion of National Girl Child Day. The circular issued by Commissioner of Panchayat Raj has directed the officials to organise the National Girl Child Day function in coordination with village panchayats at village level.

"Awareness has to be created among the girl students by using solid waste management vehicles and the facilities available at village level. The National Girl Child Day has to be celebrated by the respective village panchayats," the Panchayat Raj Commissioner said in the circular. The Commissioner stated that a decision was taken last year to organise a 10-week programme on girl child-friendly village panchayats between November 14 and January 24. "Arrangements have to be made to organise girl child-friendly panchayats and National Girl Child Day by the respective panchayats," the circular mentioned. The village panchayat officials have to select suitable locations to organise the Rural Olympics for the benefit of girl students. "The authorities have to take measures to inform the public about the event through banners and pamphlets. Arrangements should be made to facilitate girls, boys, anganwadi workers and teachers, and women self-help group members to participate in the Rural Olympics," said the Commissioner.

The village panchayat officials will make arrangements for organising competitions in kabaddi, kho kho, cricket, ball badminton, and other games, as well as rangoli, storytelling, public speaking, and the arts. However, child rights activists demand the Panchayat Raj Department ensure village panchayats organise Rural Olympics with dedication and commitment.

"I am happy with the decision to organise Rural Olympics for the benefit of girls. There is no mention of children of devadasi women participating in the Rural Olympics. It will be a great encouragement for the children of devadasi women. I want the authorities to give more publicity for the Rural Olympics to enable all children, especially girl students, to participate in sports," said Venkatesh T, advocacy coordinator, Image Next.

Expressing a similar opinion, Child Rights Trust Director Nagasimha G Rao has opined that arrangements should be made to encourage physically challenged girls in rural areas.

Illegal detention, torture charge cast shadow over fraud scheme probe

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Even as the Cottonpet police have claimed a major breakthrough in a duplicitous investment scheme, startling accusations of illegal detention and torture by the police have marred the probe. The police apprehended the owner and employees of a company, accused of orchestrating the investment scheme promising double profits. The arrested individuals include Pratap Reddy, the company's owner, along with Obalesh, Subramani, and Gopi. However, there is also an allegation against the police that a person unrelated to the case was kept captive in a lodge by the police and was tortured by the policemen.

The scam, operating for over a year in KR Puram lured unsuspecting investors from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, amassing nearly Rs 50 crore. Victims like Sandadi Narasimha Reddy and Pandeti Venkataseshaiah suffered substantial losses, with Reddy reportedly assaulted and threatened by the accused. As investigations unfolded, the claim of illegal detention and torture during a police operation have also emerged.

Venkat, not related to the case and alleged friend of the accused, claims he was unlawfully held in a lodge for three days by the Cottonpet police, prompting a formal complaint to higher authorities. Venkat has filed a complaint with the City Police Commissioner, Human Rights Commission, Home Minister seeking action against Cottonpet Sub-Inspector Santosh Gowda and constables Gananaprakash and Sachin.

In the letter seen by BM, the man, Venkat, claimed that on January 12, when he was with his acquaintance Subramani, the PSI and the police in a car illegally arrested him without giving any notice and kept him in a lodge near Cottonpet for three days. He added that his mobile phone was also taken away and was not allowed to talk to his wife and children. The family members were not informed about the arrest. He was not taken to the police station. He was detained in the lodge and assaulted.

Venkat has accused the senior officials of illegal arrest, assault and claimed that he was threatened by the police that if he brings the matter to the attention of the judiciary, "false cases will be filed" against him.

DCP Girish of the West Division assured that, "four people have been arrested in connection with the multi-crore fraud case, and further investigation is underway. The allegation of illegal detention is being thoroughly examined, and an internal investigation will be conducted."

Keep eye out for unaccompanied minors: BMTC tells its staffers

Move comes after missing boy was spotted taking a bus alone

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has instructed its driving staff to stay vigilant with regard to unaccompanied minors travelling in buses. This comes after investigations revealed that a 12-year-old boy, Parinav, who had gone missing, was seen taking a BMTC bus.

However, he had alighted from the bus after having found out that he did not have the required money for fare to reach his destination.

After finishing his routine tutorial classes, instead of waiting for his parents who would pick him up, Parinav had boarded the bus. Frequent commuters and residents had questioned how the driving staff and conductor had not noticed the odd behaviour and reported the matter to relevant authorities.

The staff have now been instructed to stay vigilant with children (expect children in school uniforms during school hours) travelling alone in buses. They have been told to notice displays of suspicious behaviour by minor individuals and inquire about their whereabouts.

If the child is found to give odd answers to the enquiry made by BMTC staff, they are required to report the matter to the nearest police station or through the child helpline 1098. They have also been informed to inquiry regarding their parents' or guardians phone number in order to reach out to them.

Along with this, the corporation noted that it makes close to 57,659 rounds on a daily basis with 5,575 buses in their fleet. They also have a ridership of 40 lakh. It said that many minors choose to travel in the bus for varying reasons, with and without the knowledge of parents.

Sandhya, a mother of two, said, "It is a good move by the BMTC to curb mishaps that may occur involving minors. Curious children would not hesitate from trying out the public transport systems such as the BMTC, especially with a low-fare range. With the Shakthi scheme, young girls may also try to travel far off places.

Such an instruction will help parents, especially those who work and are unable to keep an eye on their children throughout the day, feel much secure in letting their children off the hook." **BMB**

Missing boy found

Police officials have confirmed that the 12-year-old boy reported missing from Whitefield on Sunday was located in Hyderabad on Tuesday night. Parinav, a sixth-grade student, had gone missing after a tutoring session. Bengaluru city police formed special teams to find him, and he was eventually discovered at the Nampally metro station in Hyderabad. Shivakumar Gunare, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Whitefield, stated that a woman in Hyderabad, who saw social media posts about the missing boy, spotted him near the station and alerted the family and police. Investigations are ongoing to determine how he obtained the money and means to travel to Hyderabad and sustain himself.

VK & BM HEALTH EXCELLENCE
THE TIMES GROUP
VK ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ VIJAY KARNATAKA NO.1 READ DAILY IN KARNATAKA*
BangaloreMirror

Vijay Karnataka celebrated excellence in healthcare by bestowing the Health Excellence Award upon 30 deserving doctors. Additionally, 5 esteemed doctors were honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for their remarkable contributions to the field of health. The awards were presented at a glittering ceremony hosted at a private hotel, where the esteemed Medical Education Minister, Dr. Sharanprakash Patil, and the renowned actress Saptami Gowda did the honors. Among the distinguished guests were Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror CEO, Deepak Saluja, and Vijay Karnataka Editor, Sudarshan Channangihalli.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VK & BM HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDEES

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MANAGING DIRECTOR - TRUELIFE SPECIALITY HOSPITAL Service Excellence in Emerging Multispecialty Hospitals
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Changing skyline: Trees marked for chopping

BBMP recommences tree-cutting work to advance development of Ejipura flyover project; work was put on hold as associations and residents objected to felling of 67 trees

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Activists say that tree cutting on Wednesday began in the early morning hours at Ejipura flyover; when residents raised the issue, BBMP informed them that not all the 67 trees approved would be cut

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), on Wednesday, resumed tree-cutting work to progress the 2.5-kilometre Ejipura flyover project that had almost come to a standstill a month ago.

After receiving clearance from the Tree Expert Committee (TEC) to cut 67 trees for construction of the flyover, the Palike removed nine trees on December 1 last year. The rest of the trees standing in the project area were also to be chopped on the same day. However, a special order issued by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF), BBMP, had put a temporary pause on the project.

City-based activists and residents raise the issue of a lack of transparency in the project. "Tree cutting on Wednesday began in the early morning hours. When residents and activists raised the issue, BBMP informed them that not all the 67 trees approved by the Tree Expert Committee would be cut. After that, there has been no clarity on the number of trees that have been cut so far or that BBMP is planning to cut. This information should be available in the public domain," said Vinod Jacob, of the Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

A couple of months ago, the flyover work was put on hold as multiple city-based associations and some residents objected to the felling of 67 trees for the project. BBMP had then informed that while permission to cut 67 trees was given by the Tree Expert Committee after inspecting the project area, the work had to be paused after a city-based association reached the Karnataka High Court with an application citing legal infirmities in the Office Memorandum (OM) by the Palike, ordering the removal of 67 trees.

The civic agency had then admitted that tree-cutting activity would be put on pause, and BBMP would wait for direction from the High Court on the matter. However, since the flyover project already has approval, out of 67 trees, 20 will be removed immediately, as the project cannot be completed without cutting them. The decision on the rest of the 47 trees was to be taken after directions from the court.

> **"Some trees were cut down during Christmas holidays. We aren't sure if tree cutting has started or it's miscellaneous work** –a resident

Locals say the Palike removing trees quietly in the early morning hours without any clarity to the public is worrying.

"Some of the trees were cut down during the Christmas holidays too. We are not sure if tree-cutting has started or if they are doing miscellaneous work. There is a complete lack of clarity on the situation, and this is worrisome," said a resident. When BM tried to reach out to BBMP's Forest Department officials for clarification, they remained unavailable for comment.

BSWML to get integrated Command Centre

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The Command Centre will monitor all solid waste management activities

To remotely overlook the solid waste management operations in the city, Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is planning to establish an integrated Command and Control Centre for SWM at a cost of Rs 8.2 crore. After BBMP got an integrated Command Centre under the Smart City Project, BSWML is planning a new Command Centre to bring all SWM operations under it. BSWML and BBMP officials will be able to maintain a keen watch on the operations and improve them accordingly. BSWML has floated a tender for the setting up of an integrated Command Control Centre for monitoring solid waste management, including all software and hardware required with alert facilities, applications for SWM GPS devices for tracking all SWM vehicles, primary and secondary transport vehicles, street sweeping machines, etc.

"We are planning a new Command Centre just for the SWM department. The Command Centre, with its new dashboard, would monitor all SWM activities, and one person would be deputed to track all progress. Under the SWM department, we have auto tippers, transfer stations, mechanical sweepers, etc., which would fall under this ambit. After the SWM survey and receiving digital mapping of the areas, routes will be assigned to autotippers. These auto-tippers will be GPS-monitored and geo-fenced. If an auto driver deviates from the assigned path, they will get a call from the Command Centre," said a senior BSWML official.

Records of waste collected and sent to treatment plants, attendance of pourakarmikas and BBMP marshalls, black spots, penalty collection, etc. will be recorded on the platform. The platform will create key performance indicators daily, the official added. As per the BBMP website, the Palike limit is spread over a 713 sq km area with a total population of 1.3 crore. The population of the city is more than 29 lakh households, divided into 8 zones, 27 divisions, and 198 wards. It also has 27 mechanical sweepers, 587 mustering locations, 4,646 auto tippers, 593 compactors, 18,500 pourakarmikas, 418 public toilets, 71,570 TPD processing capacity waste processing plants, 13 biomethanation plants of 65 TPD processing capacity, one sanitary landfill with 300 TPD capacity, and 164 DWCCs.

The waste sent to processing plants will be automatically recorded by the weight measurement system at the plants. All information regarding solid waste will be updated in real-time. Since BBMP has its own integrated Command, BBMP officials will also be able to access the SWM Command Centre data on their dashboard. The key performance indicators will allow the SWM department to tackle the waste issue in the city and improve the Swachha Survekshan ranking.

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No walking space

Chakravarthy Layout

The footpaths near Chakravarthy Layout are hindered by open manholes and sewage lines, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk.

BM impact

Sheshadripuram

Following the BM reader's complaint in this column, BBMP acted swiftly and fixed the opening at the Maharanis College underpass.

Real leak

Vasanth Nagar

There is a sewage leakage issue on Dr MH Amarnath Road, Race Course Road, following Bangalore Turf Club Gate #4 in Vasanth Nagar. The foul smell is becoming unbearable, potentially requiring urgent attention.

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Tall new look for Bowring Hospital

Oldest govt hospital to be demolished, to give way for 10-storey building

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The city's oldest government hospital may soon sport a new look as Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital's old building is slated for demolition, making way for a new 10-storey structure. The hospital, falling under the jurisdiction of the Medical Education Department, has initiated the tender process, estimating a construction cost of Rs 212.23 crore. The envisaged 10-storey facility is projected to accommodate 500 beds.

Assuming the construction progresses at the desired pace, the new hospital could materialize within two years. However, acknowledging the typical construction timelines, potential delays would not be surprising. Officials assert that the new hospital should be operational by 2027, catering to outpatients. In the interim, the existing hospital functions will be relocated to a nearby building.

An official detailed the phased approach to the 10-storey building's construction. "The initial phase encompasses the cellar, ground, first, and second floors, housing outpatient departments and operation rooms. The second phase involves adding four more floors (third to sixth floor), incorporating outpatient departments and surgery rooms. The final phase will complete the construction from the seventh to the tenth floor, adding 360 beds," he said.

Dr. Manoj Kumar, Director and Dean of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, stressed the need for new construction due to the aged and dilapidated condition of the existing structure. The new facility is anticipated to enhance treatment capabilities and provide additional bed capacity for future generations. However, officials clarified their commitment to retaining the original building, preserving the iconic face of the original Bowring Hospital. While other buildings will be removed, efforts will be made to preserve the historical significance of the original structure.

Officials assert that the new hospital should be operational by 2027

> **The initial phase encompasses the cellar, ground, first, and second floors, housing outpatient departments and operation rooms**
> –Official

Historians stress the importance of preserving historical heritage, suggesting the incorporation of a photo gallery showcasing the old buildings within the new structure. They draw parallels with European countries where such preservation practices are commonplace. In terms of historical context, Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, situated adjacent to the Shivajinagar bus stand, stands as one of Bengaluru's largest and oldest government hospitals. Inaugurated in 1868 by Mysuru Commissioner Lewin Benthon Bowring, it traces its roots to a similar hospital in Paris.

The hospital began with a 104-bed capacity and, in 1900, adopted the name Lady Curzon following the inauguration of a new annexe building by Lady Victoria Curzon, wife of the then Viceroy Lord George Nathaniel Curzon. Originally part of the Mysuru kingdom, it transitioned to civil and military administration in 1884, serving as Bengaluru's sole government hospital until 1890.

Survey of waste generators & digital mapping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After the survey, the BSWML will digitally map the waste generators to reconfigure daily operations. After digital mapping, the waste management body will have a more accurate estimate and auto tippers will be given digital routes to follow for maximum efficiency.

The BSWML has floated a tender for conducting 'a Survey of Waste Generators (Block Mapping) and Conducting Digital Mapping along with a State of SWM Study with recommendations for all 198 wards at the cost of Rs 4.50 crore'.

"The last survey for waste generators was conducted in 2018. During this period, the number of households, and commercial establishments has increased. Back then, using the motion study conducted for auto tippers, we had estimated that one auto tipper could cover 150 houses per day. But due to more houses being constructed in the same residential property, the numbers may not be accurate now. We are planning to develop an app for this purpose and we will look for volunteers including students. Volunteers will conduct door-to-door surveys. In our last survey, we didn't count commercial establishments. This survey would also include a count of bulk waste generators. Any household, generating more than 100 kg of waste will be treated as a bulk waste generator," said a senior BSWML official.

As per SWM rules, all resident welfare and market associations, gated communities and institutions with an area of more than 5,000 sq m should segregate waste at source into valuable dry waste like plastic, tin, glass, paper, etc. and handover recyclable material either to authorised waste pickers, authorised recyclers, or the urban local body.

As per previous estimates, there are nearly 3,800 bulk waste generators but the number is considerably higher, according to officials. After the survey and digital mapping, BBMP is planning to identify bulk waste generators and stop collecting waste from them or charge double the current user fee.

"Bulk waste generators which are mostly apartments will have to demonstrate how the waste is being processed. They need to either have a waste processing system of their own or tie up with an agency to do the same. If bulk waste generators need BBMP to collect waste, they would have to pay double the charges," he added.

BSWML will also conduct an audit of BESCOM meters to identify the number of households in each residential property. "It's estimated that there are around 72 lakh houses but we are only getting revenue from 30-35 lakh. A BESCOM meter is an accurate estimate of the number of houses. This survey will allow us to collect fees for taking waste from all the houses in the property," he added.

Lake rejuvenation gone wrong yet again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"BBMP has removed multiple old trees that were inside as well as around the lake area. It is also in the process of being converted into a soup bowl. BBMP's classic rejuvenation plan will ensure even this lake will meet the same fate as many others. The shallow zone of the waterbody has already been dug and made deeper," added Vaijnath.

According to Bhuvan Raj K, a bird enthusiast, Lingadeeranahalli Kere played an important role by providing a suitable habitat for resident birds as well as winter visitors. Bird enthusiasts say as many as 82 bird species have been observed at the lake over time.

"We have observed Glossy Ibis, Lesser Whistling Duck, and many other bird species at the lake. Lingadeeranahalli Kere plays a critical role by providing a suitable habitat for these birds, as they depend on shallow water with aquatic vegetation. Even though the lake was not in good condition before, these birds somehow managed to survive despite the pollutants in the water. However, now, after desilting and making the lake deeper, there is very little chance that they will return like they used to," said Raj.

Situation of the trees at Lingadeeranahalli Kere that has all but dried up

When BM reached out to BBMP officials concerned, they said, the civic body removed the trees that would have impacted the main bund, but have retained nearly ten trees. "Once the rejuvenation work is over, we will plant saplings on the ring bund. The work is expected to be over by March this year," an official said.

City-based lake activists are of the view that BBMP should strictly adhere to Justice NK Patil Committee recommendations in lake rejuvenation. Rejuvenated lakes should have shallow water at the foreshore and should be deeper towards the bund region.

"De-silting lakebed flatly across the waterbody and heightened bund will not support diversity and will end up in another soup bowl. We see no changes in the approach of BBMP about lake rejuvenation even after so many years of Justice NK Patil Committee report. Rejuvenation should build on the existing natural resources and enrich the lake, but Lingadheeranahalli has lost the majority of its green cover. The waterbody, located on the outskirts of the city, attract roosting birds. Now birds will have to go further out of the city for roosting. BBMP should incorporate suggestions from naturalists and conservationists," said lake activist Raghavendra B Pachhapur.

Welcome to skywalk city

BBMP undertakes feasibility report at 11 locations for new skywalks, based on request from traffic police about accident black spots

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Based on the request of the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), BBMP has taken up the detailed feasibility report (DFR) for 11 locations for the construction of skywalks. The request from BTP came in light of the accident black spots in the city.

According to BBMP officials, these locations were proposed by the BTP. "We had received requests from BTP to consider the construction of skywalks in 11 locations to address accident black spots. The request was received by BBMP in November 2022. We have taken up a feasibility study for the locations, and based on that study, the decision will be made. We haven't allocated any funds as of now for this project," said a senior BBMP official.

BBMP has floated a tender for consultancy services for the preparation of the DFR. As per the tender, the skywalks have been proposed at Tank Bund Road, ORR near Chowdeshwari Underpass, Kaikondrahalli Junction, Tumkur Road near RMC Yard, ORR near NCC Apartment, ORR near Bagmane Tech Park, Hoodi Junction, Old Madras Road in front of GRT Jewellers, Old Airport Road near Carlton Tower, Mysore Road near BHEL, and Sarjapur Road near Krupanidhi College in Bengaluru City.

According to BBMP, this was part of BTP's efforts to reduce accident spots and it has also suggested the construction of high-rise pedestrian crossings (HRPCs) and the closure of medians. "We had recommended 58 locations for skywalks. Out of these 11 proposed locations, 7 were identified and recommended by BTP. At these locations, we have observed high pedestrian accidents, fatalities, and pedestrian movement. This observation was made on the basis of pedestrian movement and crash data analysis," said BTP JCP MN Anucheth.

File photo of a skywalk at ORR. Skywalks can be a blessing to pedestrians

"Skywalks can help reduce pedestrian accidents and deaths. There should be scientific analysis and design of the skywalks

–Ashish Verma, Convenor of IIST

There are, on average, two major and two minor junctions per kilometre of road length. This has increased travel time due to frequent bottlenecks and breakdowns. The existing road network system in Bengaluru is a major concern, both in terms of the conditions of the roads and the structure of the network. The basic structure of the road network is radio-concentric, with about 10 major roads converging in the centre. The roads themselves are crowded, and their convergence creates heavy congestion.

As a part of the programme to provide safety to pedestrians and for smooth vehicular movement at congested major intersections and locations in the city, the BBMP has been actively considering the construction of pedestrian skywalks to provide safety to pedestrians at many identified junctions under BBMP Budget Grants 2023–24.

For the DFR, the agency will try to include the construction structures within the existing right of way, avoiding any land acquisition, and accept locations with adequate width that are considered necessary, practicable, and cost-effective. The consultant shall furnish land acquisition details for revenue records and maps for further processing.

The study will entail an opinion survey of NGOs in the area around, topographical, traffic and pedestrian surveys, and analysis. Land acquisition, classified traffic volume counts, origin-destination surveys, speed and delay studies, traffic surveys for the design of road junctions, accident records, signal timings, delay to traffic, and majors for safety to users will also be studied.

About the decision, traffic expert Dr Ashish Verma Convenor of IIST said, "Skywalks can help reduce pedestrian accidents and deaths. There should be scientific analysis and design of the skywalks. Skywalks in areas with heavy pedestrian movement can be beneficial."

'Make sure wild animals have enough water'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has instructed the Forest Department officials to ensure that wild animals do not face drinking water problems this summer. During his visit to Bandipur Tiger Reserve, the Minister instructed officials to pump water through solar pump sets and fill the waterholes in the forest area. Khandre was inspecting the forest reserve in a safari vehicle.

"Due to below-average rainfall in the monsoon season, water levels in water holes are low. I have instructed officials to fill water holes through solar pump sets. The water holes should also be regularly monitored," said the Minister. Khandre, on the visit to the reserve, also instructed KFD officials to place railway barricades around the solar panels so that elephants do not damage the barricades.

Officials told to fill water holes at Bandipur and monitor them

Forest fire prevention

Speculating that there would higher forest fire incidents during the upcoming forest fire season, the Minister advised the officials to be vigilant to avoid large incidents.

"It is a good idea to deploy a sizable number of forest watchers to manage fire incidents this season. The tribal population living around the forest area is traditionally well-versed in forest control measures. Their expertise should be utilized. Moreover, stern action will be taken against those setting fire deliberately. Fire lines are being created by the department to prevent the spread of fire even in case of sudden fire incidents," said the Minister. He also suggested that fast-growing exotic species such as lantana and senna in Karnataka's forest can be managed by securing more funds under the Tiger Conservation Foundation and roping in villagers living around the forests.

In the recent legislature session, the Minister highlighted that while 40% of Bandipur Tiger Reserve is covered with weeds, 20% of Bannerghatta National Park and 30% of Nagarhole Tiger Reserve have been taken up by these exotic species.

Child dies by suicide

A 12-year-old girl, the only child of her parents, is said to have taken her own life by leaping from the balcony of her 29th-floor flat on Begur Road in southeast Bengaluru's Hulimavu area, police said on Wednesday. The authorities disclosed that she was in a state of depression, and while no suicide note was discovered, her parents had become concerned after finding her outside her room early in the morning. Despite efforts to save her, she was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital. The police, who confirmed it as a suicide, indicated that the post-mortem had been conducted, but further details could not be disclosed. The girl's father is a former software engineer turned stock trader, and her mother, a homemaker. – BMB

2 held for murder

Two men have been apprehended by the Bengaluru City Railway Police for the murder of one Arbaz Pasha near Ramanagara Railway station on Sunday. There is said to have been a longstanding personal dispute between the accused, Iliyas and Zaheer, and Pasha. Superintendent of Police, Railways, said the accused had known Pasha for six years, with Pasha allegedly causing distress to Zaheer's sister. The murder occurred after a confrontation during a party. The police tracked the accused using a phone number found in the victim's pocket. The incident was initially reported as a body near the track, but probe revealed it to be a homicide.

FIR against Haris

Police filed an FIR against Haris Nalpad, Karnataka Youth Congress president, for orchestrating a protest with torches on Tuesday night. He's accused of causing a public nuisance by holding a rally without police permission, facing charges under IPC Sections 143, 188, 283, 285, 290, 341, and 149. The rally occurred after Rahul Gandhi's entry into Guwahati was blocked during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, leading to clashes with Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. CM Siddaramaiah criticised Sarma, alleging his actions were aimed at impressing the BJP high command. – BMBw

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2 fresh Covid deaths, including 1 in K'taka, reported in country

India has logged 160 fresh cases of Covid, while the number of active cases of the infection stood at 1,886, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

Two new deaths -- one each from Karnataka and Kerala-- have been reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the ministry's data updated at 8 am. The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, 2023 but they again began to increase after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

A single day rise of 841 new cases were reported on December 31, 2023 which is 0.2 per cent of the peak cases reported in May 2021, official sources said. Of the total active cases, a large majority of these (around 92 per cent) are recovering under home isolation.

"The currently available data suggests that the JN.1 variant is neither leading to an exponential rise in new cases nor a surge in hospitalisation and mortality," the sources stated.

India has witnessed three waves of covid-19 in the past with the peak incidence of daily new cases and deaths being reported in the Delta wave during April-June 2021.

At its peak, 4,14,188 new cases and 3,915 deaths were reported on May 7, 2021.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 4.5 crore people have got infected and over 5.3 lakh people have died across the country due to the infection.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease stands at over 4.4 crore with a national recovery rate of 98.81 per cent, according to the ministry's website.

According to the website, 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccines have so far been administered in the country. -PTI

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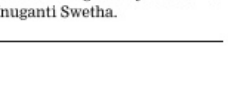
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I, ASADULLA BAIGH, R/a #4758, 4th Cross Rahimnagar, Bangarpet-563114. I, have changed my name to, ASAD ULLA BAIGH NAWAB JAN, vide affidavit, dated 24/01/2024 Sworn before Notary: M. Rajendra, Bangalore

I, Shiva Kumar S/o Kannan R/o No.118-0-27/5, Andramuniyappa Layout, Chelekere, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to SHIVA KUMAR KANNAN affidavit Dt.24/01/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I E Ganesh S/o Ethirajan PH R/o C203, pyramid temple bell apartment 16th cross ideal homes Rajarajeshwarinagar Bangalore 560098. have changed my name to Ganesh Ethirajan.

I Deepali Ashok Padanad D/o Ashok Padanad R/o BSK 5th Stage, Bangalore has changed my name from Deepali Raju Babannavar to Deepali Ashok Padanad for all future purposes

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WIRING GONE HAYWIRE

Research is investigating how to counteract addiction's effects

Many people are wired to seek and respond to rewards. Your brain interprets food as rewarding when you are hungry and water as rewarding when you are thirsty. But addictive substances like alcohol and drugs of abuse can overwhelm the natural reward pathways in your brain, resulting in intolerable cravings and reduced impulse control.

A popular misconception is that addiction is a result of low willpower. But an explosion of knowledge and technology in the field of molecular genetics has changed our basic understanding of addiction drastically over the past decade. The general consensus among scientists and health care professionals is that there is a strong neurobiological and genetic basis for addiction.

As a behavioral neurogeneticist leading a team investigating the molecular mechanisms of addiction, I combine neuroscience with genetics to understand how alcohol and drugs influence the brain. In the past decade, I have seen changes in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of addiction, largely due to a better understanding of how genes are dynamically regulated in the brain. New ways of thinking about how addictions form have the potential to change how we approach treatment.

Alcohol and drugs affect brain gene activity

Each of your brain cells has your genetic code stored in long strands of DNA. For all that DNA to fit into a cell, it needs to be packed tightly. This is achieved by winding the DNA around "spools" of protein called histones. Areas where DNA is unwound contain active genes coding for proteins that serve important functions within the cell.

When gene activity changes, the proteins your cells produce also change. Such changes can range from a single neuronal connection in your brain to how you behave. This genetic choreography suggests that while your genes affect how your brain develops, which genes are turned on or off when you are learning new things is dynamic and adapts to suit your daily needs.

Recent data from animal models suggests that alcohol and drugs of abuse directly influence changes in gene expression in areas of the brain that help drive memory and reward responses.

There are many ways addictive substances can change gene expression. They can alter which proteins bind to DNA to turn genes on and off and which segments of DNA are unwound. They can change the process of how DNA is read and translated into proteins, as well as alter the proteins that determine how cells use energy to function.

For example, alcohol can cause an alternative form of a gene to be expressed in the memory circuits in flies and people, resulting in changes in dopamine receptors and transcription factors involved in reward signaling and neuronal function. Similarly, cocaine can cause an alternative form of a gene to be expressed in the reward centers of mice, leading them to seek out more cocaine.

Exactly how these drugs cause changes in gene regulation is unknown. However, a direct link between alcohol consumption and changes in gene expression in mice provides a clue. A byproduct of alcohol being broken down in the liver called acetate can cross the blood-brain barrier and unwind DNA from histones in mouse memory circuits.

Alcohol, nicotine, cocaine and opioids also all activate important signaling pathways that are central regulators of metabolism. This suggests they can also affect many aspects of neuronal function and consequently affect which genes are expressed.

Changing brain gene activity with lifestyle

How addictive substances change cell function is complex. The version of a gene you're born with can be modified in many ways before it becomes a functional protein, including exposure to alcohol and drugs. Rather than discouraging researchers, this complexity is empowering because it provides evidence that changes to gene expression in your brain aren't permanent. They can also be altered by medications and lifestyle choices.

Many commonly prescribed medications for mental health disorders also affect gene expression. Antidepressants and mood stabilizers can change how DNA is modified and which genes are expressed. For example, a commonly prescribed drug for depression called escitalopram affects how tightly wound DNA is and can change the expression of genes important to brain plasticity.

Additionally, mRNA-based therapies can specifically change which genes are expressed to treat diseases like cancer. In the future, we may discover similar therapies for alcohol and substance use disorder. These treatments could potentially target important signaling pathways linked to addiction, altering how brain circuits function and how alcohol and drugs affect them.

Lifestyle choices can also affect gene expression in your brain, though researchers don't yet know whether they can alter the changes induced by addictive substances.

Like alcohol and drugs, dietary changes can affect gene expression in many ways. In flies, a high sugar diet can reprogram the ability to taste sweetness by tapping into a gene expression network involved in development.

Intensive meditation, even after only one day, can also affect gene regulation in your brain through similar mechanisms. Attending a monthlong meditation retreat reduces the expression of genes that affect inflammation, and experienced meditators can reduce inflammatory genes after just one day of intensive meditation.

Work in animal models has also shown that exercise changes gene expression by altering both histones and the molecular tags directly attached to DNA. This increases the activity of genes important to the activity and plasticity of neurons, supporting the idea that exercise improves learning and memory and can decrease the risk of dementia.

From Dry January and beyond, many factors can have profound effects on your brain biology. Taking steps to reduce consumption of alcohol and drugs and picking up healthy lifestyle practices can help stabilize and bring long-lasting benefits for your physical and mental health.

—Karla Kaun, Brown University, The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Cognitive behavioural therapy can alter brain activity in kids with anxiety issue: Study

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health discovered overactivation in multiple brain regions, including the frontal and parietal lobes and the amygdala, in unmedicated children with anxiety disorders.

They also demonstrated that cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) improved clinical symptoms as well as brain function.

The findings shed light on the brain mechanisms that underpin the acute effects of cognitive behavioural therapy in treating one of the most common mental diseases.

The study, published in the American Journal of Psychiatry, was led by experts from the National Institute of Mental Health.

"We know that CBT is effective. These findings help us understand how CBT works, a critical first step in improving clinical outcomes," said senior author Melissa Brotman, PhD, Chief of the Neuroscience and Novel Therapeutics Unit in the NIMH Intramural Research Program.

Sixty-nine unmedicated children diagnosed with an anxiety disorder underwent 12 weeks of CBT following an established protocol. CBT, which involves changing dysfunctional thoughts and behaviours through gradual exposure to anxiety-provoking stimuli, is the current gold standard for treating anxiety disorders in children.

The researchers used clinician-rated measures to examine the change in children's anxiety symptoms and clinical functioning from pre- to post-treatment. They also used task-based fMRI to look at whole-brain changes before and after treatment and compare those to brain activity in 62 similarly aged children without anxiety.

Children with anxiety showed greater activity in many brain regions, including cortical areas in the frontal and parietal lobes, which are important for cognitive and regulatory functions, such as attention and emotion regulation.

The researchers also observed elevated activity in deeper limbic areas like the amygdala, which are essential for generating strong emotions, such as anxiety and fear. **— ANI**

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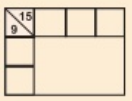
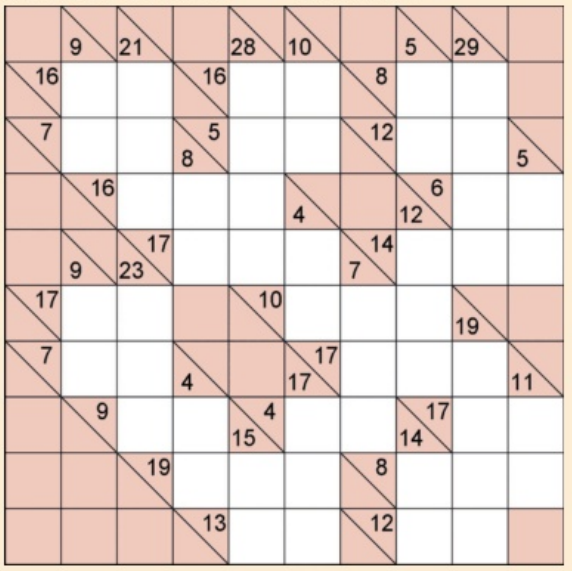
Kakuro

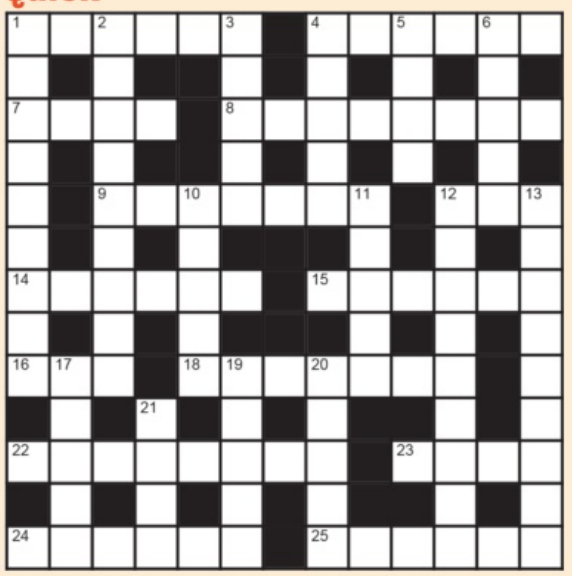
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sell (6)
4 Ill (6)
7 Look furtively (4)
8 PM to Chandragupta Maurya (8)
9 Applaud (7)
12 Everybody (3)
14 Reach a point (6)
15 _____ and bobtail : riff-raff? (6)
16 Tax deducted at source, in short (3)
18 Teller (7)
22 Attended to comforts of or took care of ? (3,5)
23 Island near Sumatra (4)
24 Moneylender (6)
25 Powerful or enormous (6)

DOWN

1 Deeply sorry for sins committed (9)
2 Book of synonyms (9)
3 In the neighbourhood or in the vicinity (5)
4 Festival that marks the beginning of the Kannada new year (5)
5 Feeble (4)
6 Faithful (5)
10 Municipal (5)
11 Florida resort (5)
12 Results of a disaster (9)
13 Caesar's infantryman? (9)
17 Pulls; crawls (5)
19 Communion table (5)
20 Seraglio (5)
21 Duo (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS S

XWPPZXX KX CZHHKOC GVSH FRW GSOH. VSTTKOZXX KX GSOHKOC GVSH FRW CZH.

Linemaro

Your sneezes sound like a chorus of angels giggling

Mindchow

A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read

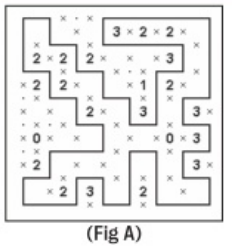
Joke of the day

Dentists tell you not to pick your teeth with any sharp metal object. Then you sit in their chair, and the first thing they grab is an iron hook

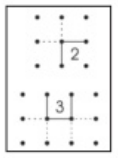
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

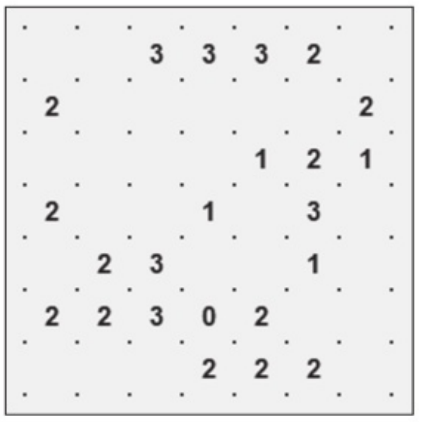


(Fig B) Not Allowed

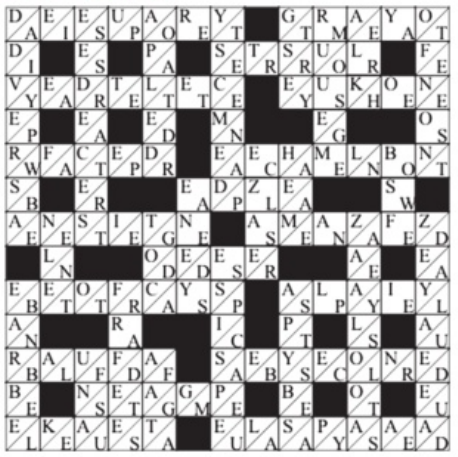
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



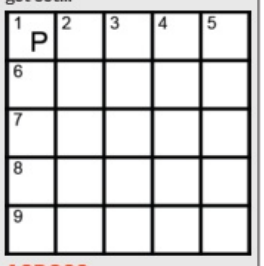
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

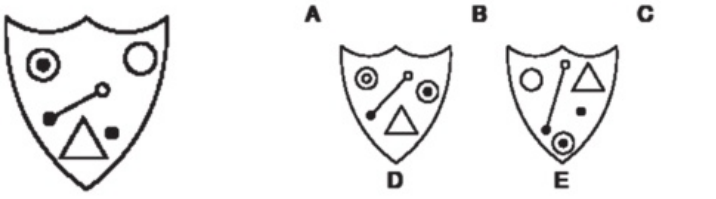
1 Chape; 6 I rind; 7 Muler; 8 Media; 9 Rewax

DOWN

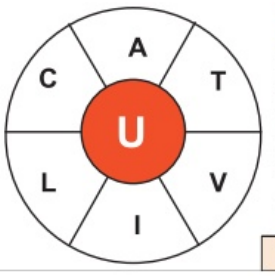
1 Awl pi; 2 Ena me; 3 Dim ax; 4 Cured; 5 Err hi

Mensapuzzle

Which shield on the right has most in common with the shield below?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6				4			
1				5				7
	2	4		8			1	
7	3		5	1		9		
6								8
		9		4	3		7	6
	5			3		7	6	
8				7				2
			2				4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 19

3 7 7 8

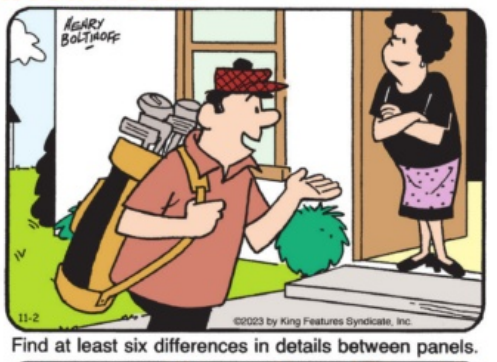
Medium = 30

2 2 8 8

Hard = 9

2 6 6 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

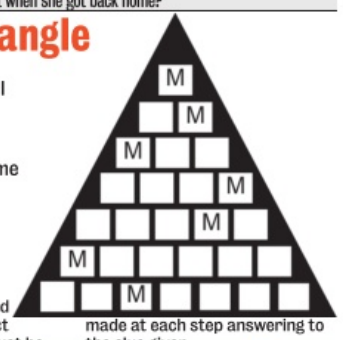
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Door is wider. 3. Shoulder pad on golf bag strap is missing. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Nose is different. 6. Woman's hair is different.

Riddler

Gemma has a phone with poor battery life. When not actively being used by Gemma, it loses the equivalent of 2 per cent of its full charge per hour. When commuting to and from work by train, it loses 20 per cent each hour. When Gemma is calling someone or otherwise using it, the phone loses 10 per cent an hour. Last Wednesday, Gemma took her phone off the charger as she left for work at 8 am. She got in to work at 8:30 am, and worked through to 5:30 pm, using the phone for five hours. Her journey home was delayed by leaves on the line and took an extra half hour compared to her morning commute. Assuming she didn't charge it all day and left the house with a full battery, how much battery power did her phone have left when she got back home?

Alpha triangle

1 Bond's boss
2 I think therefore I
3 Insane or angry
4 First man
5 Stage play
6 Chennai's old name
7 Large fleets

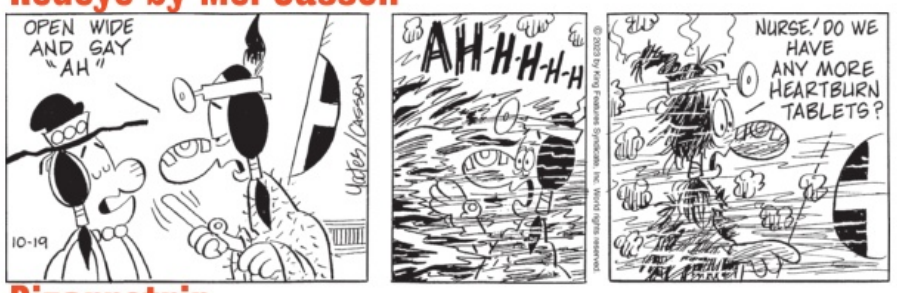


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

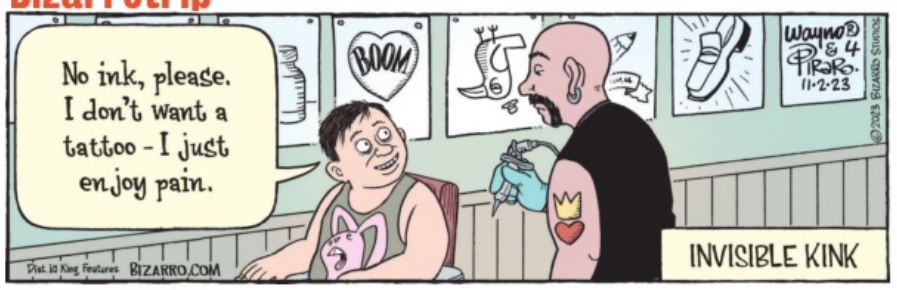
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

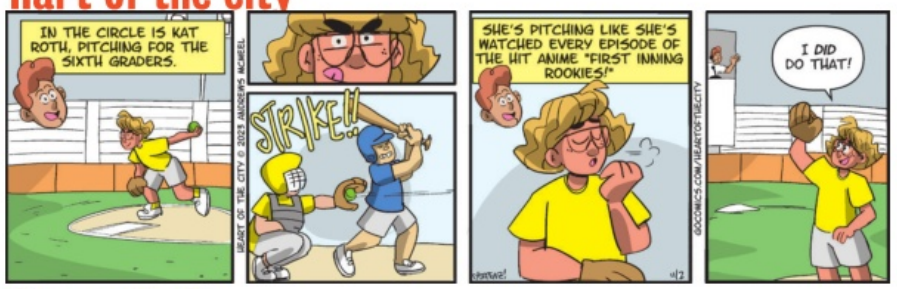


Bizarrotrip


No ink, please. I don't want a tattoo - I just enjoy pain.
BOOM
Wayno & Piraro 11-2-23
INVISIBLE KINK
Dist. by King Features BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

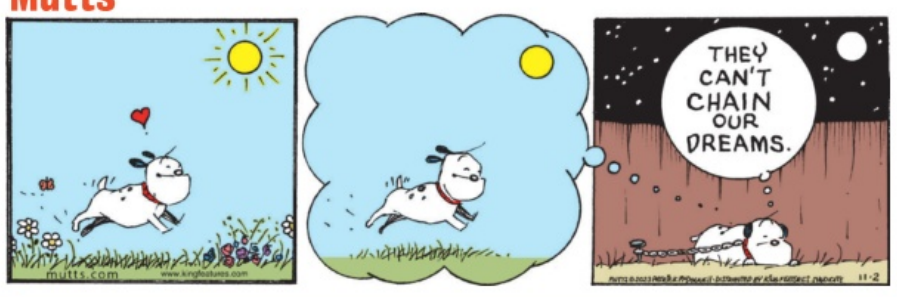
Hart of the city


IN THE CIRCLE IS KAT ROTH, PITCHING FOR THE SIXTH GRADERS.
STRIKE!!
SHE'S PITCHING LIKE SHE'S WATCHED EVERY EPISODE OF THE HIT ANIME "FIRST INNING ROOKIES!"
I DID DO THAT!

Crankshaft

BUT, IF WE BUY MONTONI'S, AREN'T YOU GOING TO MISS WRITING COMIC BOOKS?
I'LL BE LIKE A DOCTOR WHO REMOVES A BOIL FOR NOTHING.
I'LL BE A FREELANCER!
MY TURN... ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE COMICS?
PIZZA

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, situations are under control, and you may be able to come out of the past day's messy situation. You may work with patience, which may reflect on your way of working. You may plan for an outing, and students may have a good focus on their goals. Singles may find love with the help of friends or relatives.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel unhappy. You may be impatient. You may be a victim of mood swings, which may reflect on your domestic life harmony. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work; otherwise, you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rash driving.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you, you may feel harmony in your personal life, and you may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in taking some important decisions; you may also take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You can use your patience at work. Your performance may be good on the job, and you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues among family members will be resolved now. Job aspirants are likely to get a good job. Love birds may enjoy their quality time.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may help needy people. It may increase your reputation in society. You might implement the innovation into the work, which may increase your business. A positive result may make you happy. Lovebirds may plan an outing or an adventure tour.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be dissatisfied; you have some sort of detachment from your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also be taking care of your parents. It is advised to postpone migration somewhere for a few days. You should also wait for a while before acting.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic; you may be more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your siblings may help you start a new project, which may give you a profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of new jobs.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your financial health. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity to decorate your office or home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members to maintain their relationship status. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you peace of mind. Externally, you may face some work-related stress, but your inner sense may be calm and cool, which may help you to balance everything. You may enjoy every moment of work and domestic life. Some new sources of income may be opened, which may help you boost your savings.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may feel dull today. You may face some chronic health issues. You are likely to be a victim of sleeplessness, which might make you arrogant. Your arrogance may affect domestic harmony. Your profits may be converted into losses. You are advised to think twice before making any type of financial transaction.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel energetic. Your losses may be converted into profit, which may increase your business growth and liquidity. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to make some difficult business decisions. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors. You may also expect to get incentives that may increase your savings.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy at work, but your wisdom may help you make the right decision, which may increase your business. You are likely to get a big order, which may extend your work. You may utilise your creativity to renovate your home or office, which may improve your social status. You may invest some creative assets as well.

KIDZONE

Suryanshu Adeep, 7 years, Sherwood High School

Sushmitha B R, 14 Years, Chetana E-Techno School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
-1 + -1 + 1 = -2 +1 = -1

BULL'S EYE
cult, vault, VICTUAL

STRIKE OUT

L	E	A	S	T		E	L	A	P	S	E	D		
E		S	T	A	M	P		E		T		E		
B	L	U	F	F		A	B	S		S	C	O	N	D
	A			C		T				L		U		
B	E	T	R	A	Y	S		A	P	A	I	L		
	N			O	D	E	R			E		E		
E	N	S	I	G	N		A	M	A	Z	E	D		
S		E		A	D	Z	E			W				
R	A	T	E	D		E	C	H	E	L	O	N		
	E			E		M				O				
V	E	D	E	T	T	E		Y	U	K	O	N		
I		E		P		E	R	R	O	L		E		
D	I	S	P	O	R	T		T	R	E	A	T		

FAST FIVE

P	E	A	C	H
I	N	D	R	I
L	E	M	U	R
A	M	I	D	E
W	A	X	E	R

QUOTE UNCODE
Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get.

QUICK

U	S	U	S	R	E	R		M	I	G	H	T	Y	
	G		I		A		E			T		R		
S	A	W	A	F	T	E	R		J	A	V	A		
	R		P		L		A			M		N		
T	D	S		C	A	S	H	I	E	R		O		
N		U		I		M		E		I				
A	R	R	I	V	E		R	A	G	T	A	G		
T		U		I			I		F		E			
N		A	C	C	L	A	I	M		A	L	L		
P	E	E	P		C	H	A	N	A	K	Y	A		
E		S		A		D		K		A				
E		H		O		G		E		O				

MENSA PUZZLE
E: it contains exactly the same symbols as the original

RIDDLER
12% (1.5 hours of commuting = 30%, 5 hours of use = 50%, 3 hours of non-use = 8%)

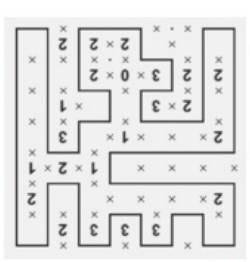
ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Mad, Adam, Drama, Madras, Armadas.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 3 + 7 + 8 = 19
Medium
8 / 2 × 8 – 2 = 30
Hard
2 – 5 + 6 + 6 = 9

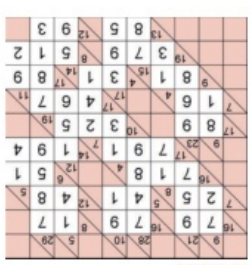
SUDOKU

3	7	1	2	6	5	8	4	9
8	9	6	4	7	1	3	5	2
4	5	2	9	3	8	7	6	1
2	1	9	8	4	3	5	7	6
6	4	5	7	2	9	1	3	8
7	3	8	5	1	6	9	2	4
9	2	4	3	8	7	6	1	5
1	8	3	6	5	2	4	9	7
5	6	7	1	9	4	2	8	3

LOOP



KAKURO



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Feeling blessed — Actress Sara Ali Khan sought blessings as she visited the Grishneshwar Maha Jyotirlinga temple in Maharashtra, and performed the auspicious rudrabhishek of Lord Shiva

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

LIVED EXPERIENCE

Played badminton, stayed in quarters: DP's airbase life

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming film 'Fighter', shared her experience of shooting the film at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam.

"I remember we shot our first schedule in Assam for 15-20 days. That was a live active airbase. It was a great decision on Sid's (Siddharth Anand) part to start the film on that note. It gave us the tone and the pitch to carry the story forward. The real aircrafts, fighters and their families were there. We were eating in the same place as the officers and we were living in their quarters," she said.

She further mentioned, "We played badminton with them. It was all so surreal, we could literally hear a sukhoi aircraft taking off every five minutes. There's not much information beyond this that we can share given the protocols of the forces. Some fighters were also assigned to work with us. They gave us extremely valuable inputs in terms of the costumes, flying the aircraft, the body language, how to salute and flying a chopper. Not just as actors but also as human beings we all learned so much." —IANS

Ryan calls out Oscars over snub to Greta, Margot

Hollywood star Ryan Gosling has mixed feelings after this year's Oscar nominees were unveiled.

While Gosling, 43, scored a Best Supporting Actor nomination for his work in 'Barbie', his thoughts were with Greta Gerwig, who failed to be nominated in the Best Director category, and Margot Robbie, who was left out of the Best Actress category, reports 'People' magazine.

The actor said in a statement, "There is no Ken without Barbie, and there is no Barbie movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, the two people most responsible for this history-making, globally-celebrated film".

He told 'People', "No recognition would be possible for anyone on the film without their talent, grit and genius."

He explained that to say he's disappointed that they are not nominated in their respective categories "would be an understatement".

"Against all odds with nothing but a couple of soulless, scantily clad, and thankfully crotchless dolls, they made us laugh, they broke our hearts, they pushed the culture and they made history. Their work should be recognized along with the other very deserving nominees", his statement continued.

As per 'People', Gerwig and her husband, Noah Baumbach, were recognised in the Best Adapted Screenplay category. The record-breaking film also received nominations in Costume Design and Production Design categories.

Robbie, her husband Tom Ackerly, Robbie Brenner and David Hyman were nominated for Best Picture as producers. Apart from also receiving two nominations for Best Original Song, America Ferrera received a nomination in the Best Supporting Actress category. —IANS

All credit to husband

Shilpa Shetty is in the headlines for her latest release, 'Indian Police Force'. In her latest interview, the actress spoke about her Bollywood journey and emphasised the pivotal role played by her family, particularly her husband, Raj Kundra. The actress provided insights into her portrayal of Tara Shetty in 'Indian Police Force,' crediting her son Viaan for influencing her decision to take on the character.

Reflecting on her early career, in an interview with IndiaToday, Shilpa acknowledged being typecast for the initial seven to eight years. The turning point came with 'Dhadkan,' a film that showcased her acting prowess and deviated from the established mold. Managing a successful three-decade career, Shilpa highlighted the relevance she maintains today, attributing it to her consistent authenticity and ability to set her own trends.

Expressing gratitude for her family's contribution to her success, Shilpa Shetty said, "I have to give credit to even Raj, who has been my pillar of strength. I have done so much more since being married. I have been able to do that because he has supported me and is extremely proud of me. My three-and-a-half-year-old daughter also knows and loves what I do. She understands I'm famous. I'm grateful for this recognition, and I'd be worried if people didn't come up to me." —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Five's a record

RC Studios Productions has created history in Sandalwood by announcing five movies. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with State Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, launched the logo of RC Studios Productions and the titles of five movies on Tuesday evening and wished all the best to director-cum-producer R Chandru.

The movies announced are: Dog, Father, POK, Kabzaa 2, and Shri Ramabana Charitha. "All these years I was alone. Now, some of my well-wishers like Ramachandra Gowda, Alankar Pandian of Invenio Origin Company from Singapore, and Anand Pandit of Motion Pictures, have joined hands with me," said Chandru.

Many people at the event, including Real Star Upendra, advised Chandru to ignore criticism and go ahead to achieve his target. Upendra said he likes Chandru's positive energy and humility.

Best wishes galore

The launch event for movie Apple Cut's teaser was ultra starry. Director Yogaraj Bhat, actress Ragini Dwivedi, actress-cum-director and producer Priya Hassan, actress-cum-director Roopa Iyer, director Gadda Vijji attended the launch and wished director Sindhu Gowda, the daughter of late director Raj Kishore, the best. Producer Ashwini Puneeth Rajakumar launched the teaser digitally.

Thanking all the guests, Sindhu Gowda said she has not been an assistant or an associate under any director in Sandalwood. "I am making my debut as a director with this movie. My father, who handled the megaphone for 29 Kannada movies, was my inspiration. I have already directed more than 10 tele serials," said Sindhu.

Sindu said she has also written the script and screenplay for the movie. "The movie revolves around five friends. I am a student of anthropology so I have included some elements of that. A dead body is one of the characters in the movie," said Sindhu.

Director-cum-lyricist Yogaraj Bhat lent voice to the teaser apart from penning a song. Apple Cut, bankrolled by Shilpa Prasanna under the Sanvi Productions, will hit the screen in March.